Claims

What is claimed is:

1.   A software setup tool for selectively installing service packs in a computer system, comprising:

a user interface component adapted to prompt a user for desired setup information relating to a desired setup for the computer system;

a data store comprising dependency information; and

a service pack installation component adapted to selectively install at least one service pack associated with at least one application component according to the desired setup information and the dependency information.

2.   The software setup tool of claim 1, wherein the dependency information comprises information indicative of whether an application residing in the computer system requires the at least one service pack, wherein the setup information comprises information indicative of whether at least one application upgrade component is to be installed, and wherein the service pack installation component is adapted to selectively install the at least one service pack if the dependency information indicates that the application residing in the computer system requires the at least one service pack and the setup information indicates that the at least one application upgrade component is not to be installed.

3.   The software setup tool of claim 2, wherein the dependency information comprises information indicative of whether the at least one application upgrade component requires the at least one service pack, and wherein the service pack installation component is adapted to selectively install the at least one service pack if the dependency information indicates that the at least one application upgrade component requires the at least one service pack and the

setup information indicates that the at least one application upgrade component is to be installed.

4.   The software setup tool of claim 1, wherein the dependency information comprises information indicative of whether at least one application upgrade component requires the at least one service pack, wherein the setup information comprises information indicative of whether the at least one application upgrade component is to be installed, and wherein the service pack installation component is adapted to selectively install the at least one service pack if the dependency information indicates that the at least one application upgrade component requires the at least one service pack and the setup information indicates that the at least one application upgrade component is to be installed.

5.   The software setup tool of claim 1, wherein the service pack installation component is adapted to determine the availability of at least one additional service pack associated with one of an application upgrade component and an application residing in the computer system.

6.   The software setup tool of claim 5, wherein the service pack installation component is adapted to consult an Internet website to determine the availability of the at least one additional service pack.

7.   The software setup tool of claim 1, wherein the user interface component is further adapted to prompt the user to accept or refuse installation of the at least one service pack.

8.   The software setup tool of claim 1, wherein the service pack installation component is further adapted to determine whether the at least one application component is installed in the computer system.

9.   A method of installing service packs in a computer system, comprising:

provide dependency information relating to at least one service pack;

prompting a user for desired setup information relating to a desired setup for the computer system; and

selectively installing the at least one service pack associated with at least one application component according to the desired setup information and the dependency information.

10.   The method of claim 9, further comprising:

selectively installing at least one application upgrade component in the computer system according to the desired setup information.

11.   The method of claim 9, wherein selectively installing the at least one service pack comprises installing the at least one service pack if the at least one application component is installed in the computer system, if the at least one application component requires the at least one service pack, and if the desired setup information indicates that an application upgrade component associated with the at least one application component is not to be installed.

12.   The method of claim 11, wherein selectively installing the at least one service pack comprises installing the at least one service pack if the at least one application component is installed in the computer system, if the at least one application component requires the at least one service pack for upgrading, and if the desired setup information indicates that the application upgrade component is to be installed.

13.   The method of claim 12, further comprising:

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selectively installing at least one application upgrade component in the computer system according to the desired setup information.

14.   The method of claim 12, further comprising determining the availability of at least one additional service pack associated with the at least one application component.

15.   The method of claim 14, wherein determining the availability of at least one additional service pack comprises consulting an Internet website to determine the availability of the at least one additional service pack.

16.   The method of claim 15, further comprising prompting the user to accept or refuse installation of the at least one service pack.

17.   The method of claim 9, wherein selectively installing the at least one service pack comprises installing the at least one service pack if the at least one application component is installed in the computer system, if the at least one application component requires the at least one service pack for upgrading, and if the desired setup information indicates that an application upgrade component associated with the at least one application component is to be installed.

18.   The method of claim 17, further comprising:
selectively installing at least one application upgrade component in the computer system according to the desired setup information.

19.   The method of claim 9, further comprising determining the availability of at least one additional service pack associated with the at least one application component.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein determining the availability of at least one additional service pack comprises consulting an Internet website to determine the availability of the at least one additional service pack.

21. The method of claim 20, further comprising prompting the user to accept or refuse installation of the at least one service pack.

22. A method of installing service packs in a computer system, comprising:

prompting a user for desired setup information relating to a desired setup for the computer system; and

installing a service pack associated with a software component residing in the computer system if the software component requires the service pack and if the desired setup information indicates that an upgrade component corresponding to the software component is not to be installed.

23. The method of claim 22, further comprising installing the service pack if the upgrade component is to be installed and if the service pack is required for upgrading the software component.

24. The method of claim 23, further comprising selectively refraining from installing the service pack if the upgrade component is to be installed and the service pack is not required for upgrading the software component.

25. The method of claim 24, further comprising prompting the user to accept or refuse installation of the service pack, and refraining from installing the service pack if the user refuses installation of the service pack.

26.   The method of claim 22, further comprising prompting the user to accept or refuse installation of the service pack, and refraining from installing the service pack if the user refuses installation of the service pack.

27.   A computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions for:

prompting a user for desired setup information relating to a desired setup for the computer system; and

installing a service pack associated with an application residing in the computer system if the application requires the service pack and if the desired setup information indicates that an upgrade component corresponding to the application is not to be installed.

28.   The computer-readable medium of claim 27, further comprising computer-readable instructions for installing the service pack if the upgrade component is to be installed and if the service pack is required for upgrading the application.

29.   The computer-readable medium of claim 28, further comprising computer-readable instructions for selectively refraining from installing the service pack if the upgrade component is to be installed and the service pack is not required for upgrading the application.

30.   A software setup tool for selectively installing service packs in a computer system, comprising:

interface means for prompting a user for desired setup information relating to a desired setup for the computer system; and

means for installing a service pack associated with an application residing in the computer system if the application requires the service pack and if the

desired setup information indicates that an upgrade component corresponding to the application is not to be installed.

31.   The software setup tool of claim 30, wherein the means for installing a service pack is adapted to install the service pack if the upgrade component is to be installed and if the service pack is required for upgrading the application.

32.   The software setup tool of claim 31, wherein the means for installing a service pack is adapted to selectively refraining from installing the service pack if the upgrade component is to be installed and the service pack is not required for upgrading the application.

33.   A software tool for selectively upgrading at least one application, comprising:

a component for structuring a service pack installable on the system, the structuring being based at least upon application setup parameters and application dependency parameters.

34.   A system for selectively upgrading at least one application, comprising:

a first component for interrogating a system to identify installed software; and

a second component for structuring a service pack installable on the system, the structuring being based at least upon application setup parameters and application dependency parameters.

35.   A data packet adapted to be transmitted between at least two processes, comprising:

a component for structuring a service pack installable on the system, the structuring being based at least upon application setup parameters and application dependency parameters.